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Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

The *Messiah*, for the annual benefit of the Royal Society of Musicians, is fixed for Wednesday evening, May 8th; the public rehearsal on the previous Monday morning. All subscribers are entitled to tickets for each occasion.

WILLIAM JACKSON, OF MASHAM.—There is an interesting sketch of the life and career of this self-taught musical composer in *Eliza Cook's Journal*, No. 47, and which we regret we have not room to extract. The simple details are calculated to give encouragement to many an industrious youth of humble means, but high aspirations.

KINGSTON-ON-HULL SACRED MUSICAL SOCIETY gave their third annual concert at the Mechanics' Institute.—Conductor Mr. R. W. Hall.

OSSETT, NEAR WAKEFIELD.—The Ossett Choral Society gave their first concert on Easter Monday, in the Church of England School-room, when a selection of sacred music from the works of Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Novello, &c., was performed, and gave great satisfaction to a numerous and very respectable audience, by an efficient band and chorus, consisting of upwards of 60 performers—the whole being very ably conducted by Mr. White, of York. Miss Wood received much applause for her favourite song, the "Infant's Prayer," by Novello. We are happy to add that the late concert left a very respectable surplus to the society, after paying all expenses.—*A Correspondent.*

MANSFIELD HARMONIC SOCIETY.—This society has at length given a sacred concert in the Town Hall, which was crowded to suffocation, and above a hundred went back unable to gain admittance. The orchestra and chorus numbered fifty performers—conducted by Mr. Kershaw. The programme presented a number of choice compositions, which were effectively performed, including the overture to "*Saul*;" the "Gloria" of Mozart, from the *Twelfth Mass*, set to English words; "The Heavens are telling;" "O lovely peace;" "O Father, whose almighty power," were spiritedly sung, and Beethoven's sublime "Hallelujah to the Father." We hope to see this concert followed by others equally attractive and reasonable in price.

EASTERN AMATEUR MUSICAL SOCIETY.—This society gave a performance of music, sacred and secular, on Monday evening, April 22nd, at their Rooms, 28, Charles-street, Stepney. The first part consisted of Haydn's *Seventh Symphony*, and a selection from his Oratorio, *The Creation*, was given with very great effect. The second part commenced with the Overture to *A la dame blanche*, followed by several songs, sestetts, and choruses by some of the finest masters; and the performance concluded with the Overture to *Figaro*. The band and chorus numbered about 40 performers, and was most ably led by Mr. Arthur, and conducted by Mr. Marquett.

LIVERPOOL.—OPENING OF THE NEW ORGAN AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH, SALISBURY-STREET.—In this magnificent church, on Sunday last, a new and splendid organ was opened by Henry Smart, Esq., of London. The orchestral department was well sustained; the selections were principally from Haydn. Miss M. B. Marsh was assisted by Mrs. Leather. The latter lady gave, with considerable pathos, the "Be-

nedictus," from No. 4, Haydn's Mass, and the "Agnus Dei," from No. 6. Mrs. M'Dougal also assisted. Several solos were sung by Mr. Dodd, including the beautiful "Laudate," by Zingarelli. Miss Marsh sang "With verdure clad," from the *Creation*, in which she admirably sustained the conceptions of the author. The organ is manufactured by Gray & Davidson, of London. Mr. Henry Smart played in the most masterly style, and the instrument was universally admired.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

WESTERN MADRIGAL SOCIETY.—A large assembly of the members and friends of this society dined together at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 9th of April, to celebrate their 13th Anniversary; about 250 voices combined to give effect to a well-chosen programme. In the first part the selection had been made from Madrigals seldom performed, and the second part was appropriated to old favourites. A very pleasant evening was spent, the listeners being but few, (perhaps one in ten,) and the majority taking their part in the good old English fashion.

MANCHESTER MADRIGAL SOCIETY, at the Dress Meeting, Town-hall, on the 23rd of April, the programme was well varied, and the music executed with the usual precision, under their indefatigable conductor, Mr. Wm. Shore. In the book of words a few lines explanatory and historical are inserted before each Madrigal, thereby adding much to the interest and instruction of the listener. We think a similar addition to many programmes might be adopted with advantage by other societies.

WORCESTER.—The Harmonic Society gave their fourth concert for the season, on 18th of April. The programme consisted of the principal portions of Handel's *Judas Maccabeus*. This oratorio contains some of Handel's finest and most elaborate choruses, and we are glad to say that the excellent manner in which they were rendered affords satisfactory evidence of the progress of the members of the society, and of their capability, under the same able conductorship, to do justice to the music selected for their performance. Mr. Done conducted, and Mr. Haynes, a young organist of considerable promise, efficiently presided at the organ. In concluding our brief notice of this concert we would wish to impress upon the "ruling powers" the advisability of removing as soon as possible from the dark and inconvenient room they at present patronize, to the spacious and elegant hall in the Corn Market, where, by a graduated scale of charges, many hundred listeners, whose means may probably not justify their spending half a crown for an evening's music, may be able to attend. We are sure that none of the subscribers would be so ungenerous as to withdraw their support from so excellent a society merely because arrangements had been made for admission to certain parts of the room at a less cost.—*Worcester Chronicle.*

HAYDN'S "PASSIONE."—In the latter portion of the eighteenth century, when the school of vocal composition progressed rapidly towards perfection through the genius of Pergolesi, Leo, and others, there was wanted some great mind to impart soul to the orchestra, to animate its frame, and to teach it the language of passion, surprise, and emotion: such a man was Haydn. His works best attest how far he effected his mission. When the fame of this "father of modern music" had been fully acknowledged, he was requested to write suitable music to accompany a religious service denominated the "Entierro," commemorative of the three hours' agony of the Redeemer on the cross, during which time he uttered those "seven last words"

BRIEF CHRONICLE (continued).

or sentences which form the subject of this sacred cantata. It was introduced at Madrid, and consisted successively of sermon, meditation, and prayer, suggested by each sentence of the Saviour, and having the interval filled up by seven slow movements of a devotional and duly expressive character. All competent judges of music are unanimous in their praise of this "most perfect" composition, and which, with the author's "Stabat Mater," are perhaps unequalled in this style by any other composer. On Good Friday we had an opportunity of being present at this very solemn and impressive service at St. Patrick's Church, and we felt no small amount of deep emotion from the very eloquent and pathetic discourses delivered by Dr. Roskell, which served to prepare the mind to receive those solemn and sublime harmonies of this great work. It was very effectively given by a numerous choral body of our most practised vocalists, conducted by Mr. Conran. The church was densely crowded. We hope to hear this composition on future occasions. It was originally instrumental, subsequently German, Italian, and ultimately English words have been applied to it, which latter were on this occasion adopted. We understand that it has also been given at St. George's, London, under the direction of the Most Rev. Dr. Wiseman.—*Manchester Examiner and Times.*

ORGAN PERFORMANCES.—Some pleasant hours amusement are afforded by the organ builders, who invite their friends to hear the large church organs as they complete them. In the last month we have had invitations from Messrs. Flight & Sons, St. Martin's-lane, Mr. Holditch, of 4, Judd-place, and from Mr. Henry Willis, of 18, Manchester-street, New-road. It would be interesting to the public if these performances were more generally known.

MADAME DULCKEN.—We regret to have to announce the demise of this talented Pianist, in her 38th year.

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